

Luke 1:68

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

Analysis

Zacharias's prophecy, called the Benedictus, begins 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people' (εύλογητὸς κύριος ὁ θεὸς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο καὶ ἐποίησεν λύτρωσιν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ). The verb 'episkeptomai' (ἐπισκέπτομαι, 'visited') indicates divine intervention—God personally coming to help. The term 'lytrōsis' (λύτρωσις, 'redemption') refers to releasing captives through payment of ransom, pointing to Christ's atoning work. Zacharias interprets recent events through Israel's covenant history, seeing John and Jesus as fulfillment of Abrahamic and Davidic promises. The aorist tenses treat future events as accomplished facts because God's purposes are certain.

Historical Context

After nine months of divinely-imposed silence (Luke 1:20), Zacharias spoke this prophecy at John's circumcision and naming. The Benedictus reflects Jewish liturgical forms and echoes psalms, prophets, and covenant promises. Zacharias connects current events to the 'oath which he sware to our father Abraham' (v.73), demonstrating continuity between Old and New Testaments. His prophecy anticipates political deliverance ('saved from our enemies,' v.71) while ultimately pointing to spiritual salvation ('to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,' v.77).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Zacharias's prophecy demonstrate the unity of Scripture and God's faithfulness across generations?
2. What is the relationship between the political deliverance first-century Jews expected and the spiritual salvation Jesus actually brought?

Interlinear Text

Εὐλογητὸς κύριος ὁ θεὸς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ ὅτι
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for
G2128 G2962 G3588 G2316 G2474 G3754

ἐπεσκέψατο καὶ ἐποίησεν λύτρωσιν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ
he hath visited and redeemed people
G1980 G2532 G4160 G3085 G3588 G2992 G846

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:48 (Blessing): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Luke 7:16 (References God): And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Psalms 41:13 (Blessing): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 111:9 (Redemption): He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

Exodus 4:31 (References Lord): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

1 Kings 1:48 (Blessing): And also thus said the king, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it.

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Luke 2:38 (Redemption): And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Ephesians 1:7 (Redemption): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

1 Chronicles 29:20 (Blessing): And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.